

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-03 DODE-00 SS-20 NSC-10 SAB-01 RSC-01

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P 101905Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

INFO GOVPANCANAL PRIORITY

USCINCSO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJ: STAFF DEL DOCKERY

REF: STATE CIRTEL 3525

1. ROBERT DOCKERY STAFF MEMBER SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE VISITED ARA/PAN AFTERNOON JANUARY 9 TO DISCUSS STATUS OF TREATY NEGOTIATIONS AND REQUEST ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING PROGRAM FOR HIS SCHEDULED TRIP TO PANAMA EVENING OF JANUARY 13 TO MORNING OF JANUARY 16 (REFTEL). IN ADDITION TO CANAL ISSUE AND NEGOTIATIONS, DOCKERY WISHES TO FAMILIARIZE HIMSELF WITH CANAL ZONE OPERATION. AFTER DISCUSSION WITH ARA/PAN, HE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN VISIT TO MIRAFLORES LOCKS AND CANAL BRIEFING , TOUR OF OLD AND NEW FRANCE FIELDS, WHICH WHITE HOUSE HAS PROPOSED BE TRANSFERRED TO PANAMA, AND SOUTHCOM BRIEFING.

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2. DOCKERY WOULD ALSO LIKE EMBASSY BRIEFING AND

ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING INFORMAL PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH

KNOWLEDGEABLE, RESPONSIBLE, AND REPRESENTATIVE PANAMANIAN TO ELICIT THEIR VIEWS ON PANAMA CANAL ISSUE AND CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS. HE IS INTERESTED IN MEETING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND MENTIONED GENERAL TORRIJOS AND PRESIDENT LAKAS, BUT WE INFORMED HIM

THAT TORRIJOS IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE COUNTRY ON A LATIN AMERICAN TOUR PRIOR TO HIS ARRIVAL AND WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE. PERHAPS APPOINTMENT COULD BE ARRANGED WITH LAKAS. FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE STAFF MEMBER HOLT HAS SUGGESTED THAT DOCKERY SEE LOPEZ GUEVARA, BUT HE IS FLEXIBLE IN THIS REGARD AND WOULD RELY ON EMBASSY'S JUDGMENT. HE ALSO ASKED TO MEET WITH RESPONSIBLE REPRESENTATIVES OF PRIVATE SECTOR (BUSINESS, LABOR, MEDIA) TO OBTAIN THEIR PERSPECTIVE ON CANAL QUESTION. DOCKERY WANTS NO PUBLICITY RE HIS VISIT AND SAYS HIS SPANISH IS ADEQUATE. DEPENDING ON EMBASSY'S JUDGMENT, HE PREFERS TO MAKE CALLS BY HIMSELF. WHILE HE IS NOT INTERESTED IN RECEPTIONS OR PARTIES, HE WOULD NOT OBJECT TO EMBASSY ARRANGING SMALL (NO MORE THAN FOUR) LUNCHEON OR DINNER WITH PANAMANIAN OF TYPE DESCRIBED EARLIER.

3. SINCE DOCKERY WILL HAVE TWO WORKING DAYS IN PANAMA, EMBASSY MIGHT BRIEF HIM EARLY MONDAY MORNING AND THEN ARRANGE INDIVIDUAL APPOINTMENTS WITH PANAMANIAN DURING BALANCE OF DAY. HE COULD THEN SPEND TUESDAY IN ZONE.

4. DOCKERY HAS DOD TOP SECRET CLEARANCE.

KISSINGER

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